

CARR-1013

Harmony Grove M. P. Church
Klees Mill Road

c.1862

According to Scharf, a Methodist Protestant church was built just south of "Pleasant Gap" about 1840. The 1862 map shows this church to have been on the east side of Klees Mill Road, just south of Bartholow Road. Nicholas Wilson sold 1½ acres of land to the Trustees of the M. P. Church "at or near Pleasant Gap School House" for \$1.00 in 1860. The date painted on the church is 1860, but the source of this information is unknown. More likely, the church was built or moved here a year or two later, just after the map was drawn up. In 1923 a new circuit was created, consisting of Harmony Grove, Zion, and Brandenburg churches. Sam Wilson donated land next to Harmony Grove church, and in July 1928 the new parsonage was built. The plan and details of the house are remarkably similar to the Sears, Roebuck and Co. mail order house called "The Fullerton". It was advertised in the "Modern Homes" catalogue between 1925 and 1933. Harmony Grove is a very pristine, simple example of rural vernacular churches in Carroll County, although it will shortly get new vinyl siding. Most early churches in Carroll County were built of logs, but few survive, having been replaced with newer structures. The survival of this log church is notable.

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Harmony Grove M. P. Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Klees Mill Road ___ not for publication

city, town Winfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bradley Wilson

street & number 116 Klee Mill Road telephone no.:

city, town Sykesville state and zip code Maryland 21784

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber 28

street & number 55 North Court Street folio 197

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-1013

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary: Harmony Grove M. P. Church is located on the west side of Klees Mill Road about 3½ miles northwest of Eldersburg and about 3½ miles east of Winfield, in south-central Carroll County. The church faces east, toward the road. It is a one-story, one-bay by two-bay V-notched log structure with rubble stone foundation, German siding with corner boards, and an inverted-V-seam metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. The sanctuary has a carpeted floor, plastered walls and a flat plaster ceiling. On the west end is a raised dais with an altar rail on three sides. South of the church, at 130 Klees Mill Road, is the former parsonage. It is a 2½-story, two-bay by two-bay foursquare, and has a parged foundation, aluminum siding, and a hip roof with asphalt shingles. There is a one-story porch across the front. It has battered posts on brick piers and a concave bellcast half-hip roof. North of the church is a cemetery.

Harmony Grove M. P. Church is located on the west side of Klees Mill Road about 3½ miles northwest of Eldersburg and about 3½ miles east of Winfield, in south-central Carroll County. The church faces east, toward the road. It is a one-story, one-bay by two-bay log structure with a rubble stone foundation, German siding with corner boards, and an inverted-V-seam metal gable roof with an east-west ridge. The logs are hewn on the sides only and have V-notch corners. The chinking has medium-size stones laid predominantly horizontally in a fairly hard old mortar that contains gravel. The chinking has whitewash or paint, but the logs do not. There is mill-sawn vertical lath nailed to the logs with cut nails. Many chases have been hacked into the logs where the lath is, and there are wedges placed between the logs and lath in other places. The German siding is mill-sawn, too, and is nailed to the lath with cut nails. At the door opening the logs butt up against a board about one inch thick. It is not possible to tell if the board is pegged to the logs. The door frame projects forward from the face of the logs about three inches, which makes it flush with the siding. The east elevation has new, flush, center double doors. Above them is a two-light transom that has been painted over. There is a painted sign over the door that reads "Harmony Grove Church Built 1860." There are two four-light sash in the gable end. Both the north and south elevations have two 2/2 double-hung sash. The north elevation also has a stovepipe that comes out of the wall west-of-center, and goes up to near the eave. The west elevation used to have one opening, but it is now covered with German siding.

The sanctuary has a carpeted floor, plastered walls with plain baseboards, window surrounds with a beaded-interior edge, and a flat plaster ceiling. There is a tie rod just below the ceiling that runs north-south. The pews are laid out with a center aisle. The pew ends are boards that are plainly cut with a deep curve from the back of the bench

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

Survey No. CARR-1013

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 2

down to a low point and up to the end of the arm rest. On the west end is a raised dais with an altar rail on three sides. It is curved at the corners, has turned balusters, and appears to be pine. The pulpit is set up on a second raised podium. It has raised panels and is grained, apparently to imitate pine. Behind the pulpit are two walnut chairs with red velvet upholstery. There is also an original small free-standing organ in an ornate oak cabinet, and an old piano that appears to be walnut.

South of the church, at 130 Klees Mill Road, is the former parsonage. It is a 2½-story, two-bay foursquare, and has a parged foundation, aluminum siding, and a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The house faces east, toward Klees Mill Road. The first story of the east elevation has a tripartite window, with 9/1, 12/1 and 9/1 sash, in the south bay. The north bay has a new door. Each bay of the second story has paired 9/1 sash. There is a hipped dormer that has a six-light sash in the center, with a four-light sash on either end. There is a one-story porch across the front. It has battered posts on brick piers, a new deck and railings, and a concave bellcast half-hip roof with asphalt shingles.

The south elevation has two one-light sash in the cellar. The first story has paired 9/1 in the west bay and a single 12/1 in the east bay. The second story has two 9/1 sash. There is an exterior CMU chimney placed west-of-center. The north elevation has two one-light sash in the cellar, too. The first story has a new door in an original opening in the center of the house. Above it, between the first and second stories, is a 9/1 sash. The west bay of the first story has paired, short 9/1 sash. The west elevation has a shed-roof one-story wing to the north. It has a 9/1 sash, a new door, and a new window to the south. It appears that the wing was originally smaller than one bay, and was added onto. South of the wing on the first story is a 9/1 sash. The second story has a small 9/1 sash to the north, and a 9/1 sash to the south.

The front door opens up into a living room that spans the whole width of the house, and about half the depth. There is a two-run stair in the northwest corner of this room, and a wide opening on the west wall, to the south, into the dining room. The kitchen is in the northwest corner of the house, accessible only from the dining room. The first story has been completely panelled, but retains its original plain pine window and door surrounds.

North of the church is a cemetery. The rows of stones run north-south, and face to the east. West of the church is a shed of 2x4 construction, vertical-board siding, and a shed roof of corrugated metal. There is a vertical-board door on the east elevation, to the south.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

Survey No. CARR-1013

Description (continued)

Section 7 Page 3

The trustees of the church continue to maintain it, even though it is no longer used for worship. The front doors will shortly be replaced, and vinyl or aluminum siding is to be put on the walls.

KS/lh:7-19-93:CARR1013.des

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-1013

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c.1862 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary: According to Scharf, a Methodist Protestant church was built just south of "Pleasant Gap" about 1840. The 1862 map shows this church to have been on the east side of Klees Mill Road, just south of Bartholow Road. Nicholas Wilson sold 1½ acres of land to the Trustees of the M. P. Church "at or near Pleasant Gap School House" for \$1.00 in 1860. The date painted on the church is 1860, but the source of this information is unknown. More likely, the church was built or moved here a year or two later, just after the map was drawn up. In 1923 a new circuit was created, consisting of Harmony Grove, Zion, and Brandenburg churches. Sam Wilson donated land next to Harmony Grove church, and in July 1928 the new parsonage was built. The plan and details of the house are remarkably similar to the Sears, Roebuck and Co. mail order house called "The Fullerton". It was advertised in the "Modern Homes" catalogue between 1925 and 1933. Harmony Grove is a very pristine, simple example of rural vernacular churches in Carroll County, although it will shortly get new vinyl siding. Most early churches in Carroll County were built of logs, but few survive, having been replaced with newer structures. The survival of this log church is notable.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870;

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Religion

Resource Types: Church, Rural vernacular

Local tradition holds that Harmony Grove church started as a result of an argument among members of Bethesda church. Apparently, while cutting wood for the stoves, someone accused another of stealing an axe and a wedge. Bethesda was a Methodist Episcopal church, while Harmony Grove was Methodist Protestant. It is also possible, then, that there was disagreement amongst the members over which movement to follow, and this could have split the church. The truth may never be known. According to Scharf, a Methodist Protestant church was built just south of "Pleasant

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

Survey No. CARR-1013

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 2

Gap" about 1840. This was a log structure covered with weather boards. It was two stories high, and had a gallery. There was also a small cemetery associated with the church. The 1862 map shows this church to have been on the east side of Klees Mill Road, just south of Bartholow Road.

Nicholas Wilson sold 1½ acres of land to the Trustees of the M. P. church, "at or near Pleasant Gap School House" for \$1.00 in 1860. The date painted on the church is 1860, but the source of this information is unknown. By 1860 few log buildings were being constructed. This church could have been built a couple years after the lot was acquired, or it could simply have been moved from the other lot. This would make it either a very late log structure, or perhaps the earliest log church to survive in Carroll County. In either case, it is significant. The paint on the chinking suggests that the logs were originally exposed, but apparently they were not painted. If the siding was added later, then the doors must have been altered, as well, since the frame aligns with the siding. The trustees records are sporadic, but give a little idea of what was happening to the building. In May 1876 a man named Wheeler sent this bill for nails, painting, rails, and work done to repair the church. The cost was \$21.19. The fence around the church lot was repaired in September 1884. Two years later they were anticipating improvements to the church, but there is no record of what these were, if they were even initiated. A new roof was put on the church in 1929; it was to be of "galvanized v crimp roofing". Charles Will was hired to supervise installation. At the same time, Clarence Costly was hired to build a new chimney, since the present location, wherever it was, interfered with funerals. In addition, the church was to be painted, "[t]he color to be gray or something near the present color." By 1944 plans were again being made to repair the roof, but they seem not to have been acted on until 1946, at least.

In 1923 a new circuit was created, consisting of Harmony Grove, Zion, and Brandenburg churches. Since they had no parsonage connected with the new circuit, the pastor usually boarded with someone in the town of Gist, where Harmony Grove is. Sam Wilson donated land next to Harmony Grove church, and in July 1928 the new parsonage was built. The final payment for the building was made in January, 1929, and the total cost was \$3,300.00. This included a bathroom with indoor plumbing, although some members opposed this feature since their own homes did not have one. The labor to build the house was apparently donated. The plan and details of the house are remarkably similar to the Sears, Roebuck and Co. mail order house called "The Fullerton". It was advertised in the "Modern Homes" catalogue between 1925 and 1933, and the cost of the house was between \$1,633 and \$2,294 delivered, plus foundation and labor to assemble the pieces. According to the current owner, however, she has records for the purchase of lumber for building the house, but she could not locate these for inspection. A large chicken house was added behind the parsonage in 1934, but with the

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

Survey No. CARR-1013

Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 3

coming of World War II the pastor went over seas, and reportedly the parsonage was no longer needed, so it was sold.

Harmony Grove is a very pristine, simple example of rural vernacular churches in Carroll County, although it will shortly get new vinyl siding. Most early churches in Carroll County were built of logs, but few survive, having been replaced with newer structures. The survival of this log church is notable.

KS/lh:7-19-93:CARR1013.sig

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-1013

Carroll County Land Records
Scharf, History of Western Maryland, p. 875
1862 & 1877 maps
Harmony Grove trustees book
"Brandenburg U. M. Church Centennial Celebration" 1983 typescript

"Zion Methodist Church, 80 Years Serving
God", 1962
Interview with Ruth Lindsay

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5 a.

Quadrangle name Finksburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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E

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G

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth M. Short, Historic Planner

organization Carroll County Planning Department

date July 27, 1993

street & number 225 North Center Street

telephone (410) 857-2145

city or town Westminster

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

THE FULLERTON



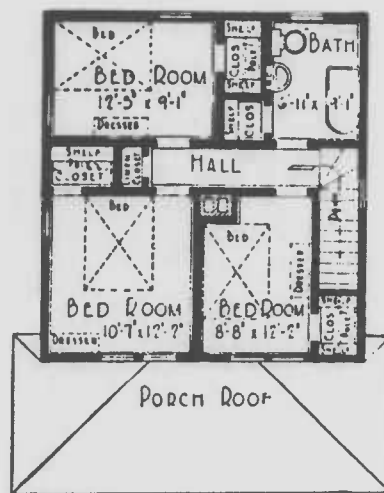
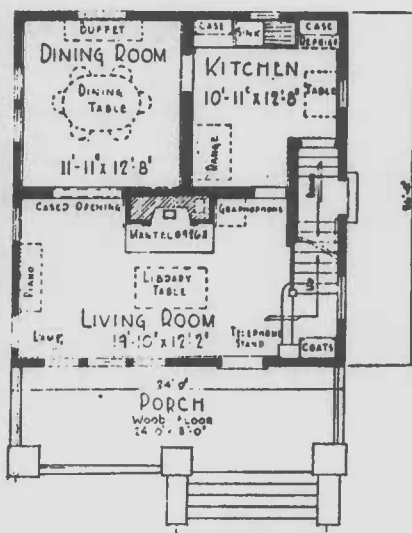
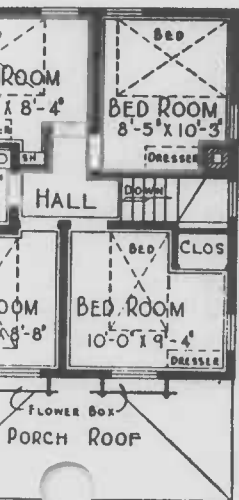
This style of home has become very popular in the past few years. It adapts itself equally well to city lots or country estates, and in few other styles can you get so much space for such a small outlay of money.

Details and features: Six rooms and one bath. Full-width front porch with hipped roof supported by brick and wood piers; hipped-gable dormer; glazed front door. Fireplace in living room; open stairs.

Years and catalog numbers: 1925 (3205X); 1926 (3205X); 1928 (P3205); 1929 (P3205); 1933 (3205)

Price: \$1,633 to \$2,294

CARR-1013



Houses by Mail
Katherine Cole Stevenson
and H. Ward Jandt
Preservation Press, 1988 p. 291





CARR-1013
Harmony Grove M. P. Church
Klees Mill Road

Martenet Map, 1862

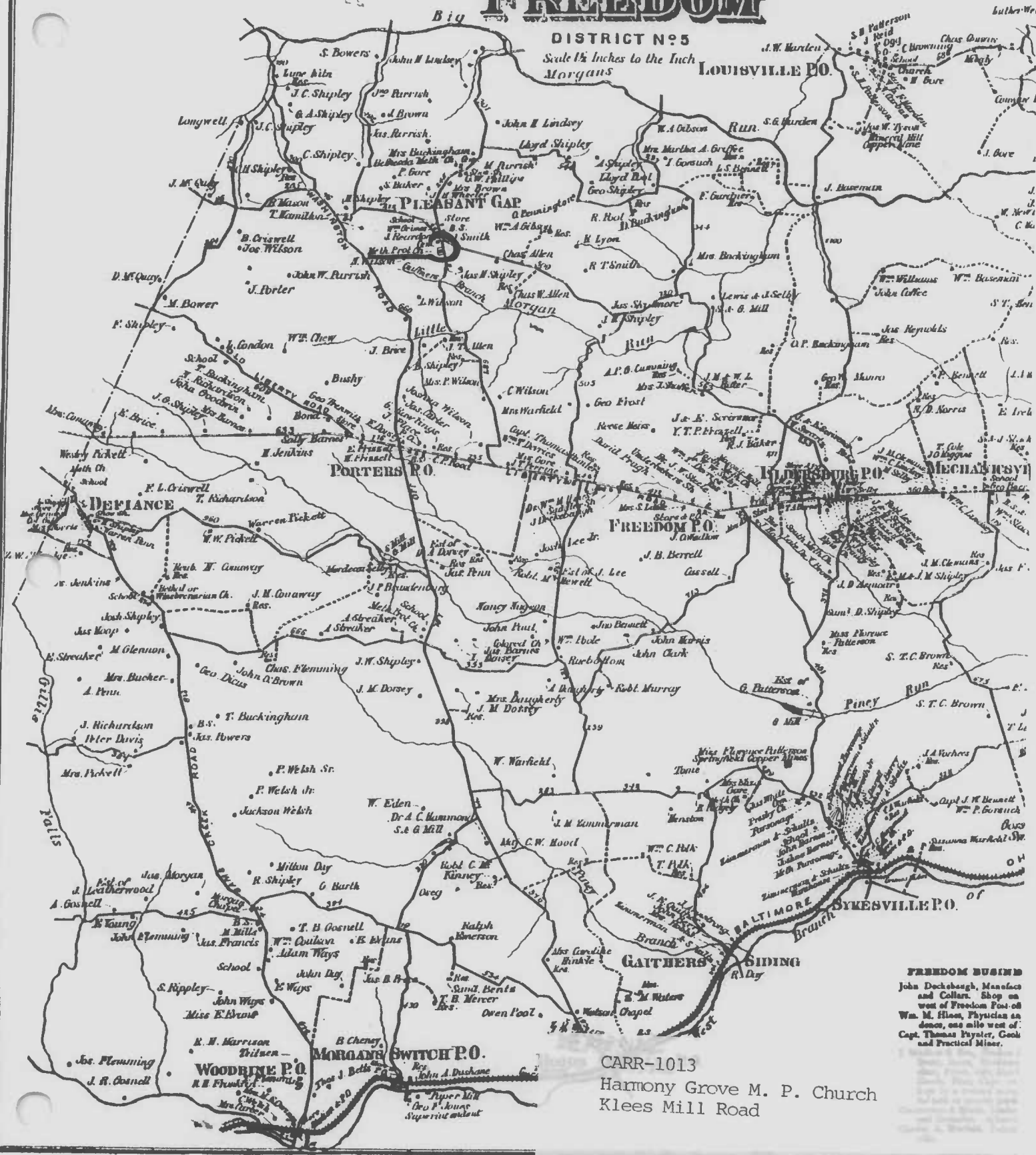
FREEDOM

Big

DISTRICT N°5

Scale 1/4 Inches to the Inch
Morgans

LOUISVILLE P.O.

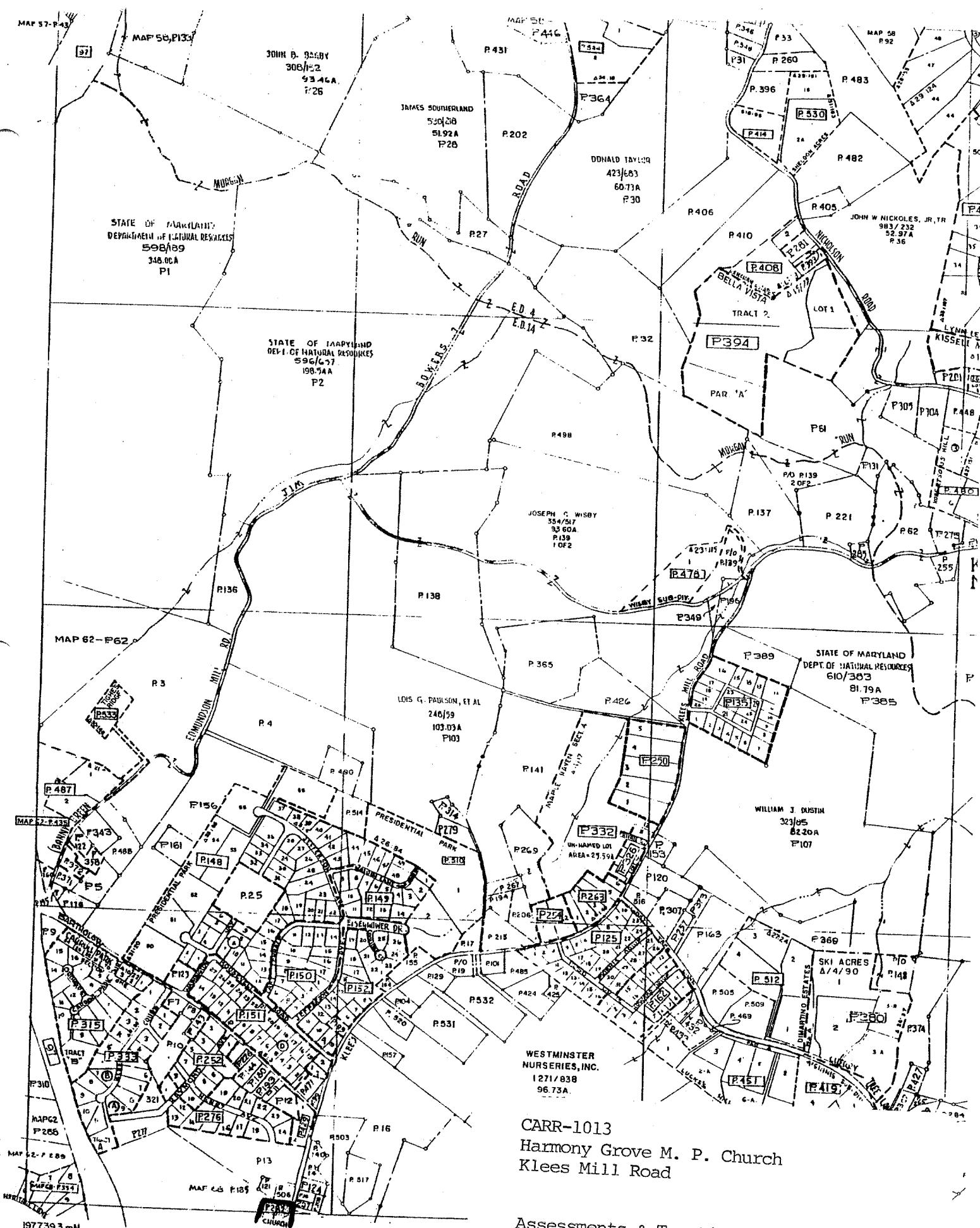


FREEDOM BUSINESS
John Deckerbaugh, Manufacturer and Collar. Shop on west of Freedom Post-office.
Wm. M. Elton, Physician on corner, one mile west of.
Capt. Thomas Pyster, Cook and Practical Miner.

CARR-1013

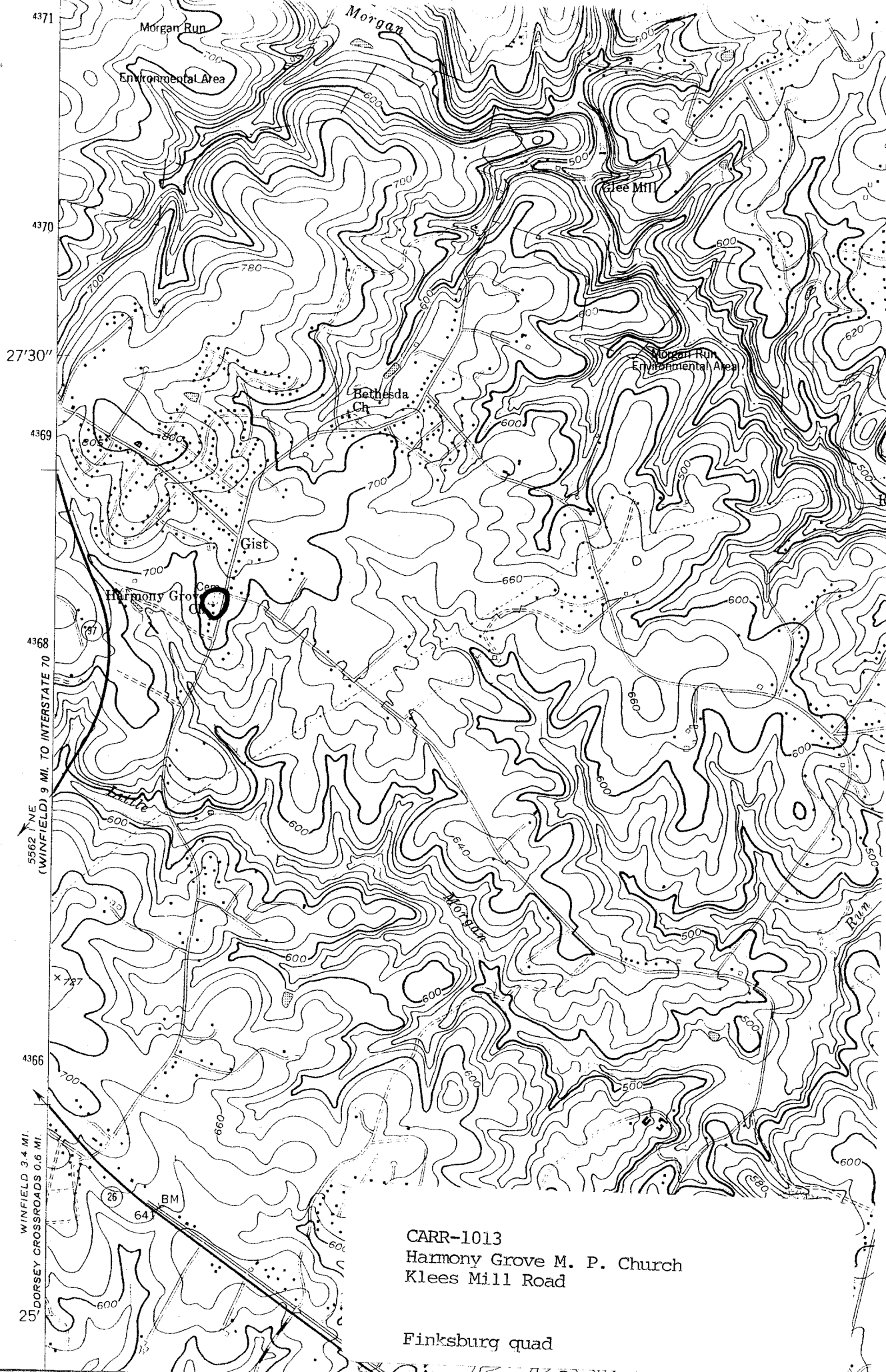
Harmony Grove M. P. Church
Klees Mill Road

Lake, Griffin & Stevenson Atlas 1877



CARR-1013
Harmony Grove M. P. Church
Klees Mill Road

Assessments & Taxation Map #63



CARR-1013
Harmony Grove M. P. Church
Klees Mill Road

Finksburg quad



Harmony Grove m.p. Church; Carroll Circuit Parsonage
N. Klees Mill Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: April 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

South: east elevations

1/4



Harmony Grove m. Church - Carroll
Circuit Parsonage

N. Klees Mill Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: July 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Church - east elevation - detail of
139 structure

2/4



Harmony Grove m. P. Church & Carroll Circuit Parsonage
N. Klee's mill Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: April 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
interior - view west

3/4



Harmony Grove M.P. Church : Circuit
Parsonage

N. Kees Mill Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: April 1993

Neg. Loc. : Maryland Historical Trust

Parsonage - east : north elevations

9/4